

High Risk Infants (birth to 3 years old)

Children under 36 months of age whose genetic, medical or environmental history indicate that they are at a substantially greater risk than the general population for developmental disability are eligible for some services from DDSN.

Services include:

- service coordination
- special instruction
- stipends to reduce the risk of out of home placement
- respite services

At-Risk Toddlers (3 to 6 Years Old)

Children age 3 to 6 years old who continue to be at a substantial risk for developmental disabilities may be eligible for DDSN services.

For More Information

Contact your local Disabilities and Special Needs Board and ask for a Service Coordinator or Early Interventionist.

Or contact:

Director, Consumer and Family Empowerment
SC Dept. of Disabilities and Special Needs
P.O. Box 4706
Columbia, SC 29240
(803) 898-9694
Toll Free: 1-888-DSN-INFO (376-4636)
Website: www.state.sc.us/ddsn/

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**SERVICES
AND
SUPPORTS**



**WE
FOCUS
ON
PEOPLE**



**THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT
OF DISABILITIES AND SPECIAL NEEDS**

**ABOUT THE
SC DEPARTMENT OF
DISABILITIES AND
SPECIAL NEEDS**

We touch the lives of over 27,000 people with lifelong disabilities in South Carolina.

Our mission is to help people achieve their individual goals by helping them meet their disability related needs.

Our responsibility is to plan, develop, coordinate and fund services for South Carolinians with the severe lifelong disabilities of:

- mental retardation and related disabilities
- autism
- traumatic brain injury
- spinal cord injury and similar disability

Where We Deliver Services

In Local Communities

DDSN provides services to most people who are eligible in their home communities through contracts with local service-provider agencies. These agencies include local Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Boards and other qualified service providers. Every county in South Carolina is served.

Each local DSN Board serves as the initial entry point for DDSN services.

In-State Regional Centers

DDSN also provides services to people with more complex, severe disabilities in Regional Centers. Regional Centers are located in Columbia, Florence, Clinton, Summerville (near Charleston), and Hartsville. DDSN directly oversees the operations of these facilities.

How We Deliver Services

DDSN and its statewide network of local Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Boards and other qualified providers utilize a state-of-the-art, person-centered approach to service-delivery. This approach gives South Carolinians with disabilities and their families more choice and control of the services and supports they receive from DDSN.

Local DSN Boards and other providers are responsible for determining if service planning is needed, and if so, developing a plan that builds on each person's strengths, interests and talents. The plan is designed to achieve specific results in the person's life. Services are authorized based on needs identified by the provider. The effectiveness or usefulness of the services and supports authorized by the plan are routinely evaluated with input from the person receiving the service. Evaluations are based on the actual results produced in the person's life and how satisfied he or she is with the supports provided.

**The Role of Consumers
and Families**

Consumers and family members play a critical role in the service delivery system and in evaluating its effectiveness. Each DSN Board and regional residential center has a support organization comprised of consumers and their families. These organizations provide advocacy opportunities for consumers and families and feedback to the agency regarding the quality of services and programs.

Services and Supports

DDSN contracts with local Disabilities and Special Needs (DSN) Boards and other qualified providers to arrange for an array of services in the community. Services are available based on each person's identified needs, the appropriateness of the service to meet the need, and the availability of funding. Services may be limited by the availability of a service provider in each county.

Services and supports may be funded through State Plan Medicaid, state funding, Federal resources and Medicaid waivers (the Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver and the Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCI) Waiver).

Medicaid Waiver Services

Prior to 1991, many services needed by people with mental retardation and related disabilities, traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and similar disabilities were only paid for by Medicaid when that person lived in an institution. The approval of Federal Medicaid Waiver programs allowed Medicaid to pay for services needed by people with these disabilities in their homes and in their communities rather than in institutions. In South Carolina there are two specialized Medicaid waiver programs operated by SCDDSN, the MR/RD Waiver and the HASCI Waiver.

MR/RD Waiver Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for Mental Retardation/Related Disabilities (MR/RD) Waiver services, a person must:

- have Mental Retardation or Related Disabilities, including autism
- be eligible for Medicaid or already qualify for Medicaid
- require the degree of care that would be provided in an Intermediate Care Facility for Mentally Retarded (ICF/MR)

- have needs that can be met by the provision of services funded by the Waiver
- be allocated a Waiver slot

Reasons MR/RD Waiver Will Be Terminated

MR/RD Waiver services will be terminated when a person:

- voluntarily withdraws or no longer wishes to receive Waiver funded services
- no longer requires the degree of care that would be provided in an ICF/MR
- is no longer eligible for Medicaid as determined by the SC Dept. of Health and Human Services
- is admitted to an ICF/MR or Nursing Facility
- receives no Waiver services for 30 days
- moves out of state

HASCI Waiver Eligibility Requirements

To qualify for Head and Spinal Cord Injury (HASCI) Waiver Services, a person must:

- be formally determined eligible for the DDSN Head and Spinal Cord Injury Division
- request HASCI Waiver Services through his/her HASCI Service Coordinator
- be eligible for Medicaid or already covered by Medicaid
- meet Nursing Facility or ICF/MR level of care
- have urgent circumstances affecting his/her health or functional status and which could be life-threatening
- be dependent on others to provide or assist with critical health needs, basic activities of daily living or require daily monitoring or supervision to avoid institutionalization
- need services not available from or adequate with existing resources, including family, private means and other agencies/programs to meet the basic needs of the individual to allow him/her to remain in the home
- have adequate natural supports to live safely in a private home or other community setting with the type/amount of services available from the HASCI Waiver

Reasons HASCI Waiver Will Be Terminated

HASCI Waiver services will be terminated when a person:

- voluntarily withdraws or no longer wishes to receive services funded by the Waiver
- no longer meets required level of care
- is no longer eligible for Medicaid as determined by the SC Dept. of Health and Human Services
- is admitted to a Nursing Facility or ICF/MR
- receives no Waiver services for 30 days
- moves out of state

Services/Supports for People with Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities(MR/RD)

- service coordination
- early intervention services
- genetic evaluation, treatment and counseling services
- stipends to prevent out-of-home placement
- individualized summer services and camps
- adult companion services
- adult dental services
- adult vision services
- audiology services
- behavioral support services
- environmental modifications
- personal care services
- nursing services
- occupational therapy services
- physical therapy services
- prescribed drugs
- private vehicle modifications
- psychological services
- respite care
- specialized medical equipment, supplies and assistive technology
- speech-language pathology
- rehabilitation support services
- adult supported employment services
- adult pre-vocational services
- adult day habilitation
- child rehabilitation support
- residential habilitation offered in a variety of settings with varying levels of supervision and supports

Services/Supports for People with Autism

In addition to the services listed under Mental Retardation and Related Disabilities, there are several additional services available for people with autism:

- consultation for families, educators and service providers
- evaluations for service or treatment planning
- training for professionals and families

Services/Supports for People with Traumatic Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury and Similar Disability

- information and referral
- service coordination
- one-time temporary funding for urgent needs
- Community Opportunities Resource/Drop-in Centers (Columbia, Charleston, Conway, and Greenville areas)
- Vocational Interests and Productivity (VIP) Program (Columbia, Charleston, and Greenville areas)
- individual rehabilitation supports
- habilitation services (residential, day, prevocational and supported employment)
- attendant care/personal assistance
- respite care
- nursing
- prescribed drugs
- medical supplies, equipment, and assistive technology
- personal emergency response system
- private home modifications
- private vehicle modifications
- psychological services
- behavioral support
- physical therapy
- occupational therapy
- speech therapy
- health education for consumer-directed care
- peer support for consumer-directed care